

December 10, 1962

Dear Pierre:

This whole damn episode is messy and unpleasant. It is upsetting for all of us; but it would be even worse if we let the press impair our trust in each other.

As you must know by now, since I have probably talked to 100 correspondents in the last week, I have done everything I can to put out the fire and dispel suspicions.

Both publicly and privately I have made it clear that AFS saw and approved your statement before it was issued. This has been repeated a number of times. I repeated it in another statement we put out last night on the LIFE article. But, as you know from your own press conference, the press simply does not choose to accept the statement as adequate.

Stevenson himself sincerely concurs in the desirability of putting the lid on this matter. You have seen his press statements to this effect. On Saturday we taped his bi-weekly ABC show (on the air yesterday afternoon) in which he went out of his way to shut off further argument. I'm enclosing a transcript of his remarks.

If there is anything more you think I can do to be helpful, all you have to do is say the word.

Best as ever,

Clayton Fritchey

Mr. Pierre E. G. Salinger,  
Press Secretary to the President,  
The White House.